

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2219
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2001
RISE IN KILLING OF ENDANGERED SPECIES
SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a steep rise in the incidents of killing of endangered species/wildlife for the last few years as reported in the Times of India dated May 2, 2001;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of cases registered in this regard during each quarter of the last two years and current year; and
- (d) the specific measures taken to safeguard and protect the endangered species/wildlife?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) &(b) Consequent to the co-ordinated efforts made by the Central Government, State Governments and Non-Governmental Organisations for effective implementation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and special thrust given to tackling the problem of wildlife crime, there has been an increase in the number of cases of detection and seizure of wildlife products in the recent years.

(c) The responsibility of detection, investigation and prosecution of the offenders in poaching cases lies with the State Governments. A few important cases have been handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation for investigation. The details of these cases and the action taken are as follows:

- (i) Seizure of three nos. of Tigers skins, 50 nos. of Leopard skins and 5 nos. of otter skins at Sahibabad, Uttar Pradesh border on 18.12.1999. Complaint has been filed.
- (ii) Seizure of 4 nos. of Tigers skins, 70nos. of Leopard skins, 18000 nos of Leopard claws, 132 nos. of Tiger claws and 221 nos. of Black buck skins at Khaga on 12.1.2000. Complaint filed in the court.
- (iii) Seizure of 50 nos. of Leopard skins at Haldwani on 6.5.2000. Legal action initiated by CBI.
- (iv) Seizure of 30 nos. of Leopard skins at Haldwani on 21.5.2000. Legal action initiated by CBI.
- (v) Central Bureau of Investigation seized 70 shawls in Delhi on 2.2.2001. Of these 26 are pure Shahtoosh shawls and 44 are suspected. Legal action initiated by CBI.
- (vi) Central Bureau of Investigation has seized 1no. of tiger skin, 5 nos. of tiger skulls, 10 nos of tiger claws, 23 Kgs. of tiger bones, 3 nos. of tiger teeth and 4 nos. of leopard skins at Nagpur on 21.3.2001. Legal action initiated by CBI.

(e) The steps taken to control illegal trade in wildlife and its derivatives are furnished at Annexure.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2219 FOR 3.12.20 REGARDING 'RISE IN KILLING OF ENDANGERED SPECIES'..

(1) Steps taken at the State level:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) State level and District level coordination committees have been set up in several States to prevent poaching and illegal trade in

wildlife.

(2) Steps taken at National level

- i. Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.
- ii. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders. Anti poaching efforts are being coordinated with INTERPOL.
- iii. Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries and Eco-development around Protected Areas for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals. Financial assistance is, in particular, being provided for raising `Strike Forces` and providing arms to the protection staff for combating the organised poachers. Assistance is also provided for giving rewards to the informers for eliciting information about poachers and smugglers.
- iv. A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary, Environment & Forests, Government of India, for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.
- v. Export of wild animals and their derivatives is prohibited under EXIM policy.
- vi. A National Conference of Forests and Environment Ministers of State Government was held on 29th and 30th January, 2001. It was resolved to organise existing protection staff into viable formations for effective control of poaching and to create enforcement infrastructure both within and out side protected areas.
- vii. Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all the State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(3) Steps taken at International level.

- i. Government of India seeks international co-operation under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) for control of illegal trade in wildlife items.
- ii. To control transboundary trade a protocol has been signed with Peoples` Republic of China and a MOU has been signed with His Majesty`s Government of Nepal.
- iii. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to Tiger Conservation.